

***** Congress passed a short-term spending bill that will fund the government until Friday, April 15.*****

If a shutdown occurs, the government stops all “non-essential” services, while essential services, such as the armed forces, border protection, air traffic controllers, and police and fire departments will continue to operate.

If there is a shutdown, only Congressman Luján’s Santa Fe and Washington, D.C. offices will remain open with limited staff. Since federal agencies would be closed, most case work will be temporarily suspended until the shutdown ends. Any constituent needing immediate assistance should call the Santa Fe office at (505) 984-8950.

The following is a list of frequently asked questions on how a government shutdown could impact you and your family.

What Services Will Continue?

Services that are deemed “excepted,” e.g. necessary for the safety of human life and the protection of property will be continued. This includes the armed forces, border patrol, police, fire fighting and federal workers who provide medical care on the job. The Postal Service and the Federal Reserve, which are both self-funded, will also continue to operate. See below for a list of additional services that would remain operational.

What Services Will Be Stopped?

During the last shutdown in 1996, the government closed national parks, museums and monuments across the nation. The shutdown also delayed bankruptcy cases and passports were unavailable. Constituents should expect similar results this time around. Government employees who are not “excepted” will be furloughed from their jobs. See below for a list of additional services that would be affected.

Will I Still Get My Social Security Benefits?

Current law suggests that the Social Security Administration has the authority to continue mailing checks, as was the case during the last government shutdown in 1996. Though checks will continue to mail, a number of Social Security employees will be furloughed, which means new Social Security claims may not be processed.

Am I Still Going to Get My Tax Refund?

Unlike the shutdowns of the 1990's, this one is going to take place during the tax preparation and filing season, which may result in delayed tax refunds to a number of Americans. Tax forms still need to be postmarked by Monday, April 18

Will Veteran Benefits Continue?

While VA hospitals will remain open, the last government shutdown saw many veterans' benefits cut or reduced. More information about the impact on veterans services is available [here](#).

Will Unemployment Benefits Be Affected?

Depending on the length of the shutdown, the federal funds that help states pay the costs of their unemployment programs could run out, which would require the state to step in and advance the money to keep their programs running. Otherwise, benefits would be reduced or stopped.

Examples of Services That Would Remain Operational

- The Federal Aviation Administration would keep the air traffic control system open and safe.
- FEMA disaster operations would continue.
- Social Security checks would be sent to beneficiaries.
- National Weather Service alerts and forecasts, as well as volcano and earthquake monitoring by other agencies, would continue.
- The U.S. Postal Service would continue mail collection, delivery, and other operations.
- Customs and Border Protection activity would continue.
- Military operations in Afghanistan, Libya, and Iraq would continue.
- NASA satellite missions currently in operation would continue.
- SNAP, WIC, and other child nutrition benefits would continue.
- Most Federal Student Aid operations would continue.
- Core Federal law enforcement, such as the FBI and U.S. Marshals, would continue, as would prison and detention operations.
- Medical services for veterans would continue to be available.
- FDA monitoring of drug imports would continue.
- Meat and poultry inspection would continue.
- Treasury's core payment and collection programs would remain operational.

Examples of Services That Would Be Affected

- The Federal Housing Administration (FHA) would not endorse any single-family mortgage loans or have staff available to process and approve new multifamily loans. FHA single-family lending represents a market share of more than 20 percent of overall loan volume (home purchases and re-financing).
- No new approvals of SBA-guaranteed loans for business working capital, real estate investment or job creation activities would occur.
- National Parks, National Forests, and the Smithsonian Institution would be closed.
- Those filing paper tax returns would not receive tax refunds from the IRS, and many taxpayers would be unable to receive service from the IRS to help them meet their tax obligations. For example, 400 walk-in service centers would be closed.
- The Mine Safety and Health Administration would not be able to conduct regular safety and health inspections.
- Only emergency passport services would be open; normal processing would not.
- Department of Commerce grant-making programs for economic development would cease, as would most payments by HUD's Community Development Block Grant program to State and local governments.
- USDA would not be able to approve any grants, loans or loan guarantees for its rural housing, utilities, business, and community facilities programs.
- Farm loans, farm payment, and enrollment in conservation programs would cease.
- Agricultural export credit and other agricultural trade development and monitoring would stop.

- The Community Development Financial Institutions Fund would suspend its grants and technical assistance to communities across the country, delaying investments that finance businesses and create jobs in distressed neighborhoods.
- Inspections of stock brokers, receipt and publication of corporate financial disclosures, and routine oversight of financial markets by Federal agencies would cease. Enforcement actions would be postponed in all but a few cases.
- Certain FEMA flood mitigation and flood insurance operations would be suspended.
- Agricultural export credit activity and other agricultural trade development and monitoring would cease.
- Most of the Veterans Benefits Administration customer support services would be suspended.
- Most Department of Defense budget planning and preparation would cease; military personnel would not receive paychecks during a funding lapse.
- Customer service would be reduced across the federal government.
- Department of Justice civil litigation activities, including civil rights enforcement and defensive litigation (where the U.S. government is a defendant), would mostly stop.
- Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) processing would cease.